

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00065 201330Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6604

S E C R E T CAPE TOWN 0065

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, MNUC, SF

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL TALKS ON NUCLEAR MATTERS

REF: (A) PRETORIA 0171, (B) STATE 9388, (C) PRETORIA 0298,

1. I MET WITH BRAND FOURIE THIS MORNING TO GET HIS REACTION TO OUR SUGGESTION FOR TECHNICAL TALKS.
2. FOURIE SAID HE HAD GONE OVER OUR PROPOSAL WITH AEC HEAD DR. ROUX. INFORMALLY, HE COULD TELL ME THEY HAD AGREED TO SUBMIT MEMORANDUM TO HIGHER AUTHORITY RECOMMENDING INVITING US TECHNICAL TEAM TO SOUTH AFRICA IN THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THEIR VISIT WOULD BE PRELIMINARY TO BROADER TALKS WITH AMBASSADOR SMITH COVERING VARIOUS ASPECTS AS HAD BEEN SUGGESTED BY PM VORSTER IN HIS OCTOBER 12 LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER.
3. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION ON DATES, FOURIE SAID THIS SHOULD DEPEND ON PROXIMITY TALKS IN NEW YORK. ASSUMING THESE TAKE PLACE IN MID-FEBRUARY (AND HE GAVE ME IMPRESSION HE WAS PROCEEDING ON THAT ASSUMPTION), EARLIEST HE AND DR. ROUX COULD HOST TEAM WOULD BE END OF FEBRUARY. FOR PLANNING PURPOSES HE SUGGESTED TEAM ARRIVE HERE IN TIME TO START TALKS

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ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24. HE COMMENTED THESE TAKE PLACE IN PRETORIA WHERE ALL THE EXPERTS ARE. HE WOULD PLAN TO FLY TO PRETORIA AND REMAIN AS LONG AS NECESSARY. HE ASKED ME FOR NAMES OF TEAM MEMBERS AND I GAVE THEM TO HIM AS PER STATE 302210 AND 306036.

4. COMMENT: FOURIE STRESSED THAT ALL THE FOREGOING IS

CONTINGENT ON CABINET LEVEL APPROVAL. HIS OBSERVATIONS WERE
AT THIS STAGE PERSONAL AND OFF-THE-RECORD. MY INQUIRIES
ABOUT ADVANCING THE DATE TO EARLY FEBRUARY HE TURNED ASIDE
AS IMPOSSIBLE GIVEN THE SCHEDULE UNDER WHICH HE IS WORKING.
HE OBVIOUSLY WANTS TO PLAY A MAJOR PART IN THESE TALKS AND I
THINK IT IS IN OUR INTEREST THAT HE DO SO. HE AND ROUX ARE THE
ONES WHO HAVE CLOUT WITH THE CABINET MINISTERS AND THE PM.
BOWDLER

SECRET

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Message Attributes

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